[श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खान]

उसके साथ श्रीमन् मैं एक बात पहले कहना नहीं चाहता था लेकिन चूंकि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि इन संस्थाओं की साख गिरी है अनुशासनहीनता के कारण, श्रीमन्, यही कारण है जिससे मजबूर होकर हम यह विधेयक लेकर सदन में आये हैं ताकि अनुशासनहीनता पर अंकुश लगाया जा सके और इन संस्थाओं की साख को बहाल किया जा सके। और अकेली इसी संस्था की बात नहीं है। इसको कोई आरोप न समझा जाय। मैं पहले तो नहीं कहना चाहता था, लेकिन आपने यह स्पष्ट प्रश्न उठाया है, इसलिए मजबूर होकर कह रहा हूं कि सन् 1979 में पहली दफा वातावरण, उसके जो भी कारण रहे हों, इन गुप्तचर संस्थाओं में पहली दफा अनुशासनहीनता का किस्सा हुआ। कुछ ऐसी संस्थाएं बनाई गई, उनके माध्यम से काम कुछ ऐसे हुए, जो देखकर हमें यह लगा कि इस चीज को रोकने की कोशिश की जाए सरकार की तरफ से और जिससे मजबूर होकर आज यह बिल इस माननीय सदन के सामने है। उस वक्त अकेले आई०बी० में नहीं हुई थी बल्कि और भी पुलिस संस्थाओं में इस प्रकार की अनुशासनहीनता हुई थी और अनेकों एसोसियेशन बनी थी और जैसा माननीय वीरेन्द्र वर्मा जी ने एग्री किया कि हमारी फौज और पुलिस भी अगर उन्हीं गतिविधियों से ग्रस्थ हो जाएगी, जिनसे साधारण कारखाना या साधारण संस्था होती है, तो शायद उसकी इजाजत हमें नहीं देनी चाहिए। इसके लिए इन संस्थानों के अधिकार मे जो काम है, वह सीधे हमारे देश की सुरक्षा, हमारे देश की शांति व्यवस्था से जुड़े हुए है और शांति व्यवस्था और सुरक्षा को निश्चित ही किसी भी अवस्था में दांव पर नही लगाया जाना चाहिए। इसलिए मैंने इस ओर पहले भी कहा कि यह हमें पूरा अहसास है कि बहुत सारे ऐसे अधिकार जो सम्मानित दूसरी संस्थाओं में काम करने वाले व्यक्तियों को मिले हुए हैं, इस विधेयक के पारित हो जाने के बाद इन संस्थाओं में काम करने वाले लोग उन अधिकारों से वंचित हो जाएंगे। हमें इसका पूरा अहसास है और इसीलिए हम यह बिल लाए है।

यह बात भी कही गई कि उनके लिए खास तौर से ऐसे कदम उठाएंगे, जहां पर उनकी जायज शिकायतों को, उनकी मांगों को सुना जा सके, उसके लिए उचित व्यवस्था की जा सके और उनकी सुविधा का ध्यान रखा जा सके उनके कार्य में दक्षता लाई जा सकें। ...(**व्यवधान**)... मैंने पहले ही निवेदन किया कि यह चूंकि गुप्तचर संस्थाएं है, इनका काम करने का क्षेत्र संवेदनशील है। इसलिए ज्यादा विस्तार में इन बातों में हम जाना मुनासिब नहीं समझते कि उन पर हम चर्चा करें।

श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल : माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने यह कहा था, स्टाफ कौन्सिल बनायी गयी थी, वह क्या स्टाफ कौन्सिल बनाने का जो प्रावधान था या परिपत्र निकला था, उसको आप फिर से रिवाई करेंगे ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं।

श्री आरिफ मोहम्मद खान : मैं इतना ही कह सकता हूं, माननीय सदस्य जो बात कह रहे हैं, उनको मैं सुझाव के तौर पर नोट किए लेता हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE TOBACCO BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1985.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Now we shall take up the Tobacco Board (Amendment) Bill, 1985. Now, the Minister to move the Bill. Yes, Mr. Sangma.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, as passed by the Lok Sabha; be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Tobacco Board was set up in 1976 under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. It has been functioning with the firm objectivt of development of the tobacco industry and regulation of the production and curing of the Virginia tobacco, having regard to the demand therefor in India and abroad and promotion of export of tobacco and tobacco products.

Sir, the working of the Tobacco Board, the efficacy of the various provisions of the Act and their shortcomings, the problems of the growers, the curers, the traders, the exporters and other connected with the manufacture of tobacco and tobacco products have been under continuous examination of the Government. With a view to enabling the Board to play a very effective role in production, development, marketing and export of tobacco it has been found necessary to amend suitably the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act, 1985. It is accordingly proposed to make amendments to Act to achieve the following objectives:

(i) to increase the representation to the growers on the Board for more effective participation;

(ii) to empower the Tobacco Board to regulate production of Virginia tobacco *inter alia* on the basis of differences in soil characteristics and agro-climatic factors in the different regions of the country where this type of tobacco is grown and the effect thereof on the quality and quantity of tobacco produced in these regions.

(iii) to require the processors of virginia tobacco and the manufacturers of products made therefrom to register themselves with the Tobacco Board. This will help the Board in having control over cigarette manufacturers who are the major buyers of virginia tobacco and in monitoring the regular offtake of this tobacco by the manufacturers from the growers;

(iv) to provide licensing of graders to take up commercial grading. This will help the farmers to bring properly graded virginia tobacco to the auction platforms which will help in their securing better prices in the auctions;

(v) to provide for licensing of construction and operation of barns which would regulate barn capacity, thereby effecting production control indirectly;

(vi) to prohibit certain unfair practices in the tobacco trade;

(vii) to provide for prosecution for contravention of not only the provisions of the Act or rules made thereunder, but also regulations made under the Act and to provide for enhanced penalties for contravention there.

Opportunity is being availed of to include, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation, in the Act, provision relating to the power of the Tobacco Board for writing off losses. Opportunity is also being availed of to provide for laying of the regulations under the Tobacco Board Act before the Parliament.

With these words, I recommend the Bill for consideration.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Shri Babul Reddy.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, as the Minister just now said, this Bill is brought forward to amend the Act of 1975 with a view to ensuring remunerative prices to the virginia tobacco growers and to regulate the production of virginia tobacco. Sir, it is well known that in our country tobacco is grown mainly in three States—Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. Andhra Pradesh alone produces about 80 per cent of the total production in the country, and Andhra Pradesh is particularly known for its qality of virginia tobacco—may be, due to agro-climatic conditions, the soil and other favourable circumstances existing there.

Sir, the plight of the tobacco growers is very sad. I may tell you that in traditional areas like Guntur —Guntur is known for its tobacco— they find it very unremunerative compared to other crops. They are in fact giving up its products in Guntur district. It is slowly going to the other districts like Prakasam district and Nellore district. For example, in Nellore one never found any one producing tobacco. They have taken up producing it. Karnool has taken up producing tobacco—in Andhra Pradesh. But in the traditional district Guntur they are giving up producing tobacco on a large scale. Why? Because the producer is not finding it remunerative. Sir, I do not know why the producers should suffer. For example, I have seen some statistics. In the sale of cigarettes, if 1000 cheap cigarettes are sold, the prices that they fetch is Rs. 60, but the producer would not get Rs. 1.50 out of that Rs. 60. For very costly cigarettes the price may be very high. But the producer who produces virginia tobacco, which yields these cigarettes, does not get even Rs. 13 out of Rs. 1000. That is, the excise duty, sales tax, middlemen are swallowing so much of money. The Government is also swallowing so much money. But the producer who produces this valuable stuff is not getting anything. It is very unfortunate. The Agricultural Prices Commission—in this House I have heard and I have also contributed to that—was very severely criticised. The Agricultural Prices Commission has been very severely criticised in their fixing the price of sugarcane. I will tell you how the middlemen are making money. There are about 5 big companies who are handling the tobacco grown by the poor farmers. Unlike in the case of tea plantation, rubber plantation, coffee or cordamom plantations where the growers are big landlords, the tobacco growers are small farmers. 95 even 100 per cent of the production is by small farmers who own 2 or 3 or 4 acres. They do not have the storage capacity. They do not have the staying power. Their plight is very difficult. Taking advantage of that, these companies are purchasing at a very cheap rate. They are either exporting it to other countries or producing cigarettes. *Biris* are produced by using national tobacco. That is how it is called in the countryside. Take the case of *biris*. Almost all the *biri* manufacturers are multi-millionaries. Unfortunately, the people who produce the tobacco suffer from chronic poverty. These things require very serious consideration. When Mr. Pranab Mukherjee was the Finanace Minister, a question was put about Golden Tobacco Company. We were told that they have evaded 100 crores of excise duty by routing their produce through Sikkim. Sikkim was merged with our country and the Government did not think of enforcing these excise laws in that State. This company routed their products through Sikkim and evaded 100 crores of excise duty. It has been admitted here. They said that they were trying to plug the loopholes. The excise duty figures from cigarettes alone is Rs. 480 crores and on other products Rs. 500 crores more. Though there is a statutory warning that cigarette smoking is injurious to

health, people are smoking. It has produced some results in America. I have read that 30 million people have given up smoking there. I would suggest that the words "Statutory warning" should be omitted. The moment you say that it is a statutory warning, it loses its gravity. It is written because the law requires it. Otherwise it may not be harmful. If you remove the words "Statutory warning" and say "smoking cigarette is really pernicious", people will take it seriously. It is jocularly said that in courts nobody will speak the truth even though outside he may not like to speak falsehood. When somebody gave evidence in a court of law, the other party said: "let him say so outside and I will give up my claim". The Judge asked him "why did you not accept the challenge". He said: "Sir, I have my children. How can I say it outside? I will not speak untruth outside." Here also, you must be careful about the big fish and don't allow them to evade taxes. The small farmers should get their dues. The trader is getting Rs. 60 for 1000 cigarettes and the poor farmer should get at least 5 to 10 rupees. Same is the case with sugarcane. One ton of sugarcane produces 800 kilograms of mollasses and 800 kilograms would produce 500 litres of alcohol. The State would get the excise duty and the middleman would get the money. Altogether they get about 60,000 rupees. One ton of sugarcane is equal to 800 kilograms of molasses and 800 kilograms of molasses is equal to 500 litres of alcohol. It would get about Rs. 60,000 from the consumer. It is being sold at Rs. 60 per litre. But we grudge paying Rs. 100 more to the producer. Likewise, I want to point out in the case of cigarettes also that injustice is being done to the production of tobacco. In the case of the grower who produces the stuff which earns foreign exchange, which earns crores of rupees for the Government and for these big companies he is treated badly. That is why agitations are coming up. We have read it that at Nippani in Karnataka where the growers were not being paid properly, there was an agitation and there was a shooting and firing and about 20 or 30 persons died in that firing. So, you have to take serious note of these things. The measure is laudable, but there is one point that I want to make. You said that the number of growers should not exceed six in number. It should be the other way. In all agricultural marketing committees which are constituted 50 per cent should be the minimum representation from the growers. Here it is a total of 20 and out of that six farmers is the maximum. At least six should be the minimum if their voice is to be really felt.

With these observations, I thank you for the opportunity given.

श्री रामचन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं।

श्रीमान जैसा माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया इसमें अनेक संशोधन करने जा रहे हैं, खास तौर से उन्होंने चर्चा की तंबाकू पैदा करने वाले किसानों की नुमाइंदगी बढ़ाने की लेकिन विधेयक में उनकी संख्या के अनुपात की चर्चा नहीं है। इसलिए जैसा रेड्डी साहब भी बोल रहे थे मैं भी चाहता हूं कि किसानों की नुमाइंदगी ज्यादा से ज्यादा इसमें रखी जाए। जो महत्वपूर्ण बात हम उठाते रहे हैं, वह यह है कि जो टैक्स लगता है वह वजन पर लगता है एकड़ या रकबे पर नहीं जिससे बड़ा करप्शन है। जो लोग ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैसे देकर कम से कम टैक्स लगवा लेते हैं, इस चीज को रोका जाना चाहिए बहुत से उदाहरण हमारे पास मौजूद हैं जहां पर किसानों से लम्बी रकमें फर्जी टैक्स लगाकर फिर मौदेबाजी कर वसूल की जाती है। फिर उसको कम कर दिया जाता है। संवैधानिक तौर से लोगों को यह मालूम होना चाहिए कि जमीन पर दो तरह का रेवेन्यू नहीं हो सकता। यही तर्क हमको दिया गया। लेकिन हम जानते हैं कि किसान से जमीन पर जब रेवेन्

[श्री रामचन्द्र विकल]

लिया जाता है तो सिंचाई की दरें भी वसूल की जाती है गन्ने की सिंचाई की दर अलग होती है, गेहूं की अलग होती है। वह भी अगर एकड़ के हिसाब से किसान से लिया जाता है तो तम्बाकू पर टैक्स इस हिसाब से क्यों नहीं लगाया जाता है मैं चाहता हूं कि इससे बहुत बड़ा करप्शन रोका जा सकेगा और किसानों को आर्थिक लाभ होगा, अगर उस पर एकड़ या बीघे के हिसाब से टैक्स लगाया जाए।

जहां तक व्यापारिक दृष्टिकोण या आयात निर्यात की दृष्टि से किसानों को लाभ पहुंचाने का सवाल है उससे किसानों को लाभ नहीं होता दूसरी जो कंपनियां हैं जो बिचौलिये होते हैं उनको लाभ होता है। किसान पैदा करने के बाद उसमे ज्यादा मुनाफा नही कमा सकता लेकिन. जो व्यापार करते हैं या पैदावार की शक्ल बदलते हैं उनको फायदा होता है। किसान को अधिक से अधिक फायदा मिल सके इसलिए इसमें संशोधन करना चाहिए क्योंकि किसान को ज्यादा मुनाफा होगा तभी उसका उत्साह बढ़ेगा। इसलिए मैं यह जरूर चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी किसानों पर बीघे या एकड़ के हिसाब से टैक्स लगायें जिसमे किसानों को बड़ी सुविधा होगी। इन्ही शब्दों के साथ में इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 10 साल के अंतराल के बाद ऐक्ट में अमेंडमेंट लाया गया है। कई बार ऐसा लगता है कि अमेंडमेंट की आवश्यकता की अनुभूति होने के बाद भी जो उसका पूर्ण स्वरुप सामने आना चाहिए वह नहीं लाकर उसमें से थोड़ा सा अंश सामने रखा जाता है। 10 का अनुभव काफी है जिसमें विधेयक सविस्तार रूप में विचार के लिए आना चाहिए था। हम देख रहे हैं कि देश के अंदर तंबाकू का उत्पादन कई राज्यों में अधिक है कई में कम है। मैं जिस राज्य से आता हूं वहां एक जिला समस्तीपुर में बहुत तंबाकू होता है।

यहा कुछ बिम्ब इसके साथ जुटे हुए हैं सबसे पहला बिम्ब तो मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जो उत्पादक है, किसान है वह उसके साथ जुटा हुआ है राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर विचार करने के लिए इससे राजकीय खजाने में कितनी पूंजी आती यह दूसरा अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण विचार है। ऐसा लगता है कि तम्बाकू एक ऐसा उत्पादन है जिसके लिए दुनिया में बाजार की कमी नही है। काफी बाजार हैं। देश के भीतर और देश के बाहर काफी बाजार हैं। एक नहीं दुनियां के कई देश रात-दिन भारत का दरवाजा खट-खटाते रहते हैं। भारत उनके यहां तम्बाकू निर्यात करता है। जिस वस्तु का महत्व इतना है और देश के अन्दर इतनी बड़ी पैदावार है उसके उत्पादक के लिये आप कुछ नही कर रहे हैं। मैं एक रिपोर्ट देख रहा था जिसमें है कि 350 मिलियन के०जी० भारत के अन्दर तम्बाकू का उत्पादन है और 55 मिलियन के० जी० हम उसका निर्यात कर रहे हैं। खेती मे निकला हुआ तम्बाकू इसकी कीमत और स्वरूप चाहे कितना ही बदल गया हो किसी दूसरे रूप में, चाहे सिगरेट के रूप में बदल जाए, जर्दे के रूप में बदल जाए या किसी और फार्म में बदल जाए दुनिया में जहां भी जिस-जिस रूप में इसका उपयोग हो रहा है उस रूप में चाहे बदल जाए, इसकी कीमत दोनों की कीमत में कहीं तुलना हीं है। मूल आधार किसान जो उत्पादक है उसके बीच में जा कर अगर देखा जाए तो उसकी घोर दुर्दशा घोर दरिद्रता है। शरीर के ऊपर कपड़ा नहीं। तम्बाकू से से बनी हुई चीजें दुनियां में नाम कमा रही हैं लेकिन जो जड़ है जो उसका जन्मदाता है उत्पादक है उसकी हालत आज बहुत ज्यादा खराब दिखाई दे रही है। फिर राज्य के खजाने में कितना पैसा आता है उधर भी दृष्टि डालने के बाद बड़ी निराशा होती है। मुझे लगता है कि इसमें कई चीजें छिपी हुई हैं। एक सकेण्डिल जिसकी जांच हो चुकी है आन्ध्र के अन्दर एक छोटा सा क्षेत्र है वहां पर तम्बाकू के सेकेण्डल की जांच सी० बी० आई० ने की।

दिखाई दे रहा है कि 12 तम्बाकू कम्पनीज और छः सरकारी पदाधिकारी थोड़ा नहीं, सरकारी खजाने में आने वाले 2/ लाख रुपये का घोटाला कर चुके हैं । एक जांच के अंदर इतना बड़ा घोटाला निकल रहा है । इससे नतीजा निकलता है कि अन्तराल में, बीच में कितना बड़ा घोटाला चल रहा है । आखिर हम किस का कल्याण चाहते हैं किसान का कल्याण चाहते हैं, देश का कल्याण चाहते थे या मुट्ठीभर घोटाला करने वाले, चाहे बीच के ब्रोकर हों, तम्बाकू कम्पनीज हों या मुट्ठीभर सरकार पदाधिकारी हों, उसके साथ जुड़े हुए हैं । इनके परिप्रेक्ष्य में जब विचार करता हूं तो मुझे लगता है कि यह बिल बहुत अधूरा है । मैं तो सरकार से मांग कर रहा हूं कि सबसे पहले तम्बाकू बोर्ड पूरी परिस्थिति की जांच करके इसके ऊपर एक रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करे । एक प्रतिवेदन सामने लाए । उस प्रतिवेदन के आधार के ऊपर एक विधेयक का निर्माण होना चाहिए । उसकी आवश्यकता के ऊपर निर्माण होना चाहिए । लगातार एक चीज अनुभव हो रही है कि विधेयक बहुत जल्दी में आ रहा है । पता नहीं क्या आकाश फटने वाला है कि बिना पूर्ण विचार किए हुए विधेयक रोज पास करते चले जा रहे हैं । मैं सरकार से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि इसमें कोई प्रतिष्ठा की बात नहीं है । आप इस विधेयक को सलेक्ट कमेटी के सुपुर्द कर दें । संसद सदस्यों की एक प्रवर समिति बनाई जाए और प्रवर समिति को आप यह विधेयक सुपुर्द कर दें । वह ठीक से छान बीन करके, सब पहलू पर विचार करके सारी स्थिति को देखा जाए और स्थिति के अनुकूल जहां उत्पादक को लाभ हो, जहां भारत सरकार को लाभ हो जहां राष्ट्रीय खजाने की आय में वृद्धि हो, उसके अनुसार प्रवर समिति को रिपोर्ट दे और तब उसके बाद इस विधेयक को स्वीकार किया जाए । धन्यवाद ।

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Bill moved by the hon. Minister But let me tell you that the farmers are not getting the remunerative price and a number of times nobody is prepared to purchase the tobacco of the farmers. Last year, the tobacco was sold at Rs. 6 a Kg in Gujarat, and this means nothing in real terms because the cost of inputs like fertilizers, cost of irrigation etc. is much more and even then the farmers do not get a higher price. I wanted to remind the hon. Minister that I had gone to him with a representation of the farmers to say that STC was not purchasing the tobacco; it was only the private traders who were purchasing it at such low price. The Minister wrote me that he has issued orders to STC to purchase the tobacco but even then the STC refused to purchase it, and I hope the Minister Mr. Sangma, konws it. If the Minister's orders are not carried out, then there must be something wrong with the whole machinery and if in spite of Minister's orders, STC refuses to purchase the tobacco, then such type of agency should not be there at all. Tobacco must be purchased from the farmers because you are exporting it and you are earning so much of foreign exchange out of it but you are paying only Rs. 6 to the farmers for a Kg and you are earning more than Rs. 200 crores in foreign exchange by exporting it. Even the cigarette companies earn about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 out of a kilo of tobacco which they buy at Rs. 6 only. That way the present situation is in favour of the Government because they earn export duty and other taxes and it is also in favour of the multinational companies which are manufacturing cigarettes. Even then, the farmers do not get a remunerative price.

On the Tobacco Board, more than 50 per cent of the membership should go to the growers. Those who do not know A-B--C of tobacco, are put on the Board. How can they do justice to farmers? So, I suggest that more than 50 per cent of the Board's membership should go to the farmers whose representatives should be put on the Tobacco Board and they should represent the tobacco growing areas of Andhra, Gujarat and Karnataka.

[Shri Vithalbhai Motiram]

You are not giving funds to the Tobacco Board. What is the use of setting up this Board? Government must provide funds to the Tobacco Board so that it can purchase tobacco from the farmers and the Board should also see that farmers' interests are always protected.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): This is a very important Bill. As a matter of fact, the tobacco growers have been agitating for a long time for proper representation and at the same time for minimum remunerative price and now the Government has come with this Bill to give some relief to the farmers. But I would like to impress upon the Government that the most important factor to be considered is the interest of tobacco growers. My friend has already indicated that 3 States are there growing tobacco, Andhra, Gujarat and Karnataka. So far as Andhra is concerned, Minister was kind enough to visit some places there where tobacco is grown and also where the virginia tobacco is grown and he knows how the growers are in distress they had to sell their tobacco at a lower price because of circumstances and because the other agencies were not cooperating and were not paying proper price to the tobacco growers. We have, of course, made representations several times and the hon. Minister was kind enough to visit the areas and he was kind to take some necessary steps. But what I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister is, though we are encouraging, we are giving some protection to the traders, we are not giving the same kind of encouragement to the farmers. We have to give more attention to the tobacco growers. All sorts of help and encouragement should be given to them. Sir, tobacco is being exported to different countries, specially to the U.S.S.R. and other socialist countries. There are a number of companies, there are middlemen. They are exploiting the whole situation. We are allowing these middlemen, we are allowing these companies,—there are four or five companies which are monopolising the whole tobacco trade—to exploit the situation and they are exporting to foreign countries. I would request the hon. Minister that the STC should be allowed to enter this field, should come into trade. Of course there may be some small companies who should be encouraged. As I said, there are four or five companies who are monopolising the trade. The small companies are not allowed to enter the market. Even though they want to enter the market they want to do some good to the country, to the nation, no encouragement has been given to them so far. I would like to know from the Government, what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard. I would suggest that the STC should enter the field so that these handful of big companies are not able to exploit the difficulties of the farmers.

Another thing which I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister is, Andhra Pradesh is a major tobacco-growing State. Eighty to ninety per cent of the virginia tobacco is grown in Andhra Pradesh. Due to natural calamities from time to time, many of the tobacco growers are put to great loss; their crop is destroyed. In such cases, we should provide loans to them and wherever they are not able to repay the loans they should be written off so far as the small and marginal farmers are concerned.

Then, Sir I would like to point out that warehousing facilities are not provided whether it is in Guntur or in other places. As a matter of fact, Government have got sufficient income both by way of foreign exchange and otherwise. I would suggest that a certain sum should be set apart from this to provide warehousing facilities in different places where virginia tobacco is grown. I was given to understand that there is no proper building or warehouse at Guntur. Immediate attention should be paid to this.

Then, so far as the appointment of officers and managers is concerned,

I was given to understand that a number of posts are being created and some posts are vacant. I do not know for what purpose these posts are being kept vacant. In this connection, I would suggest that the recommendations of the Estimates Committee should be considered and put into practice. I do not know what steps have been taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

Then, takin gthis opportunity, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to certain new provisions which have been introduced in this Bill. I will mention only two or three sections. Now, take, for example, amendment of section 4. It says here:

"(i) for the words 'eight members' words 'ten members' shall be substituted; and

(ii) the following proviso shall be inserted at the end, namely:—

"Provided that the number of members appointed under this clause from amongst the growers of tobacco shall not exceed six".

Why it shall not exceed six? Why not more? I would request the Government that more representation should be given to the growers. The interests of the farmers and the growers should be safeguarded. Then, I welcome the provision, insertion of new section 10A, which deals with the registration of growers of virginia tobacco seedings for commercial purposes. Of course, I welcome the provisions made in clauses 10, 11(a), 11(b) and 13. Clause 13 is with regard to an amendment of section 33 of the principal Act. I welcome these provisions. At the same time, my point is that the middleman should not be given a chance to exploit the standard tobacco is being exported Though good quality samples of tobacco are shown; but in fact, substandard tobacco is being exported: Though good quality samples of tobacco are shown; but in fact, substandard tobacco is exported. This brings a bad name to our country. I do not know what action has been taken by the Government. I was given to understand that China has taken stern action against the officials and persons responsible for such things. I do not know what action our Government has taken against the officials and persons who have indulged in this kind of activity. It should be seen that good quality tobacco is exported.

So, Sir, necessary steps should be taken to see that interest of farmers and growers is protected. No middleman is allowed to exploit the situation and all necessary precautions are taken in this regard.

SHRI S. W. DHABE (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir as regards the provisions of this Bill, the Tobacco Board mainly consists of the representatives of growers, traders, curers, registered manufacturers of virginia tobacco and, of course, the number has been increased but it is not clear what percentage will be given to growers. Apart from growers there are also consumers and the tobacco workers. Government wants to give representation to the farmers but what about tobacco workers? There are a large number of tobacco workers' unions. They should also be given representation on the Board if you really want workers' participation. Merely saying that you want to give representation to farmers is not sufficient. The same principal should apply to all and in toto.

My second submission is, in my area of Maharashtra bidi is one of the biggest industry which requires tobacco. Tobacco is supplied by Gujarat and other neighbouring States, but the quantity is not of good order, it is not sufficient There are two lakh bidi workers. Their major demand is that there should be all-India minimum wage under the Bidi Cigarettes Act. Secondly, they want that there should be supply of tobacco through cooperatives There are a large number of Bidi cooperatives also. I, therefore, suggest that this Board should have some quota fixed for the bidi workers and their cooperative societies so that the problem of supply of tobacco can be overcome.

[Shri S. W. Dhabe]

Coming to export, there is a large scope for export of tobacco Many countries want our tobacco. Therefore, there should be more and more cultivation of tobacco. Apart from this, there is export of cigarettes but not of bidis. As a matter of fact, bidi has proved to be good from hygienic and health point of view, it is better than cigrattes, but it is not getting a good market Bidi can have a very good market in Asian and African countries too. We should explore the possibility of exporting bidi to those countries as it is cheaper than cigarettes. If the bidi export market is organised properly, I think the workers will have good payment, they will get more wages and tobacco traders will also be benefited. Therefore, export of manufactured goods of tobacco should take into consideration for larger tobacco cultivation and the interest of tobacco growers.

Then, we are taking of the Lol. Pal Bill and of cleaning administration etc. Here although these are all commercial activities you say that in clause 2(b) that the office of member of the Board shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as a member of either House of Parliament. This is a very serious and important question in our country. Why should Members of Parliament be made members of the Boards and Corporations which are doing trading and commercial activities? We are having the Public Undertakings Committee which goes and supervises investigates and finds out the faults. Its job is to scrutinise. The Tobacco Board also comes under the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Committee. When we are having a Bill like the Lokpal Bill or the Lokayukt Bill where M.Ps and M.L.As. are involved, a demand can be made "why should MLAs not be there from the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, why only Members of Parliament?". Therefore a demand has come that Members of Parliament should not be made members of financial corporations trading corporations and commercial corporations, because when there is a lot of corruption and a lot of corruption charges are being made, the names of Parliament and members of Parliament should not be associated with these activities.

Now under the law the Board will be responsible jointly and severally. The Law Minister will bear me out that every member is responsible for the activities of the Board and M.Ps. will be responsible. Therefore this provision is a retrograde step and at least in the appointment of Board members, care should be taken to see that Members of Parliament are not appointed on such Boards.

Then, about writing off losses. The first thing is that under a new section, statutory power is being given. Now there are two aspects of it. One is, it will encourage the Boards to make losses. This provision being there, they can write off the losses with the sanction of the Central Government. Now this is not a Revenue Department, or the loss is not just like a revenue loss to be written off. To write off the losses, I think, will be a bad example for every Board or Corporation. But under clause 8 you have provided—and I quote:

> "Subject to such conditions as may be specified by the Central Government, where the Board is of opinion that any amount due to, or any loss, whether of money or of property, incurred by the Board is irrecoverable, the Board may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, sanction the writing off finally of the said amount or loss."

I think this is not a healthy proposition that the Board itself, when it is itself responsible for it, should be allowed to write off the losses. In fact these are the undertakings where such powers should not be given. Further, there is a very curious power being taken by the Central Government.

> "Provided that no such approval of the Central Government shall be necessary where such irrecoverable

amount or loss does not exceed in any individual case and in the aggregate in any year such amounts as may be prescribed".

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is in his mind. What guidelines are you going to issue for determining "such amounts as may be prescribed". Supposing tomorrow you say, if it is less than 5 lakhs, you need not come to the Central Government for approval, will it be proper to have that power of prescribing the losses being taken by the Central Government? Whether we will not be giving leverage to the Board to incur losses. I therefore think that clause 8 of the Bill is not a healthy provision.

With these observations, I feel that the object of the Bill is very laudable and I support the Bill.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद (बिहार) : महोदय, तम्बाकू एक ऐसी वस्तु है कि जिसे हम विदेश में निर्यात करते हैं और उससे हमें काफी विदेशी मुद्रा का अर्जन होता है, लेकिन दो तीन सालों से यह देखने को मिलता है कि देश के अन्दर तम्बाकू का उत्पादन, खास करके वरजीनिया तम्बाकू का उत्पादन गिरता जा रहा है ।

1982-83 और 1983-84 में जहां तक मुझे स्मरण है कि वर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का उत्पादन 151 मिलियन के० जी० हुआ था । आज उसका उत्पादन गिर कर 81-91 मिलियन के० जी० हो गया है । इस उत्पादन की गिरावट के पीछे कारण क्या है, मैं चाहूंगा कि मंत्री जी इस पर ध्यान देंगे । जहां तक मुझ इसकी जानकारी है 1983-84 में जब वर्जीनिया तम्बाकू का उत्पादन इस अनुपात में हो गया तो कोई उसको खरीदने वाला नहीं था । किसानों ने एक बहुत बड़ा आन्दोलन आन्ध्र प्रदेश के अन्दर भी किया, रोड जाम किया और सरकार को मजबूर किया कि सरकार एस०टी०सी० के द्वारा तम्बाकू की खरीद कराए । तम्बाकू की खरीद को बाद में सरकार ने आदेश दिया कि एस०टी०सी० तंबाकू की खरीद करेगा । लेकिन खरीद करने के बाद भी काफी दिनों तक किसानों को उनके तंबाकू खरीद के पैसे नहीं मिले और इसलिए किसानों ने इस बात को समझा कि तंबाकू का अधिक उत्पादन करना उचित नहीं है, इसलिए दूसरे साल में तंबाकू का उत्पादन गिरकर 81 मिलियन के० जी० हो गया । उस साल भी सरकार के द्वारा चाहिए यह था कि एस०टी०सी० के द्वारा तम्बाकू की खरीद कराएं । लेकिन सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया आंध्र प्रदेश ने किसानों का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल मंत्री जी से मिला था । मैं भी उसमें था । लेकिन सरकार के द्वारा कोई ऐसा आदेश नहीं हुआ, यह एस०टी०सी० खरीद करे और इसलिए व्यक्तिगत जो व्यापारी हैं उन्हीं के हाथों में किसानों को अपना तम्बाकू बेचना पड़ा । और थोड़े पैसे पर बेचना पड़ा । तम्बाकू की कीमत किसानों को 5-6 रुपये किलो मिली जब एस०टी०सी० खरीद कर रही थी । उस समय तम्बाकू की कीमत जहां तक मुझे स्मरण है 16 रुपये के० जी० थी । तो 16 रु० के०जी० से किसानों की कीमत गिर कर 6-7 रु० के०जी० हो गई । बहुत से किसानों ने यह समझा कि तम्बाकू को बाजार में बेचने से अच्छा यही होगा कि खेतों में ही उसे छोड़ दिया जाए और उससे बढ़िया खाद हो जायेगी । इस तरह से उस साल देश में ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा हुई और सरकार ने तम्बाकू को बेचने के संबंध में आक्शन का सिलसिला जारी किया है, मुझे यहां तक जानकारी है आक्शन में व्यापारियों के कोल्यूजन के कारण किसानों को अच्छी कीमत नहीं मिलती है । इसलिए वर्जीनिया तंबाकू को एक बहुत बड़ा खतरा पैदा हो गया । इसलिए मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा कि इस तंबाकू की एक निश्चित कीमत तय करे एक फ्लोर प्राइज तय करे, एक रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइस तय करे और किसानों को वह कीमत मिले । इस दिशा में वह कारगर कदम उठाए, क्योंकि व्यापारियों के ऊपर उनको छोड़ देना उनकी शोषण की प्रवृत्ति का उनको शिकार बनाना है । दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा वह यह है कि तंबाकू का निर्यात दूसरे मुल्कों में भी होता है । यहां से 198-83 में तंबाकू का निर्यात चीन के अन्दर हुआ था

[श्री सूरज प्रसाद]

और वह घटिया किस्म का तंबाकू चीन को निर्यात हुआ । उसके बाद से चीन ने तंबाकू का अपने देश में आयात करना बंद कर दिया । शायद फिर शुरु करने वाला है या किया है यह मुझे ठीक से जानकारी नहीं है । मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा कि यह जो तंबाकू हमको विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करता है और उसमें जो घटिया किस्म का तंबाकू जो विदेश को निर्यात हो जाता और उसके चलते जो हमको विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने में कठिनाई होती हैं ऐसे व्यापारियों के खिलाफ सरकार को कठोर कदम उठाना चाहिए ताकि विदेशी व्यापार में वह इस तरह का घोटाला नहीं करने पायें । तीसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि वहां किसानों की यह अनवरत मांग रही है कि तंबाकू बोर्ड का गठन करने में इस तरह का कदम उठाना चाहिए ताकि किसानों के जो विभिन्न संगठन हैं उन संगठनों के प्रतिनिधि तंबाकू बोर्ड के अन्दर में रहे, मिल के अन्दर ग्रोअर्ज के प्रतिनिधित्व की बात कही गई है । मैं सरकार से चाहूंगा कि ग्रोअर्ज विभिन्न किसान संगठनों में अपने को संगठित किए हुए हैं तो इसलिए तंबाकू बोर्ड के गठन करने के सम्बन्ध में जब सरकार कदम उठाए तो उसे इस बात का ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि इस बोर्ड के अन्दर जो सचमुच किसानों के संगठन हैं, जो आंध्र प्रदेश में, कर्नाटक में, या कुछ ऐसे राज्यों में, जहां वर्जिनिया तम्बाकू का उत्पादन होता है, वहां उस राज्य के किसानों के प्रतिनिधि इस बोर्ड में रखें। इस तरफ सरकार को कदम उठाना चाहिए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए सरकार से आग्रह करना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को एक रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइस तय करनी चाहिए और वह रेम्यूनरेटिव प्राइस किसानों को मिले, इसकी गारन्टी देनी चाहिए और एक मिशनरी का उद्भव करना चाहिए, जो किसानों द्वारा उत्पादित तम्बाकू को खरीद सके। धन्यवाद ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will take five minutes.

Sir, I thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate for their having shown a lot of interest in the welfare of the tobacco growers.

Sir, tobacco is a very important cash crop in our country. Particularly it contributes quite a lot to the economy of the States of Andhra Pradesh Karnataka and Gujarat. It gives direct employment to about 85,000 farmers in these three States, and it also gives seasonal employment to three to four lakh persons during the time of harvesting, curing and grading. And this is besides the employment that is generated in the cigarette and the bidi manufacturing industry. Tobacco also contributes, I think, to the tune of about a thousand crores of rupees to the public exchequer by way of duty on cigarettes. Somebody said that it was Rs. 450 crores. It is much more. It is about a thousand crores of rupees. And as far as export is concerned, it contributes almost about Rs. 200 crores every year by way of earning foreign exchange Therefore, Sir, this is a very important crop, and Government attaches a lot of importance to the development of tobacco and the tobacco industry.

One hon Member has made a point that this Amendment Bill has come after ten years and asked why it was so late. At the same time he said that this Bill should be withdrawn when we have brought this Aemendment Bill.

Mr. Reddy made a reference to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. Actually the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings went into the various aspects of tobacco and the tobacco industry. And it is after having studied the recommendations of the Estimates Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings that Government of India in 1981 constituted an expert committee to go into the whole aspect of the tobacco industry. And it is on the recommendations of this expert committee that Government has formulated its policies, made up its mind, and we have

now actually come with a very comprehensive Amendment Bill which, in my personal view, will go a long way to help the tobacco growers in our country. I do not want to go into the details of the objectives of the Bill because these, I have already stated in the very beginning.

I will briefly deal with some of the points which have been raised by the hon. Members.

A point has been made that we should make all-out efforts to produce more and more tobacco in our country, so that the farmers can get benefited. I am afraid, that is not the correct situation. We have brought this Bill rather to regulate the production of tobacco in our country, not to encourage more and more production of tobacco for the simple reason that the demand for tobacco in the world as well as in the country is steadily coming down. Now, if we look at the world production figures, we will find...

4 P.M.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : सिगरेट पीनेवालों की संख्या धूंआंधार गति से बढ़ती जा रही है ...

श्री पी० ए० सगमा : सिगरेट पीने वालों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है या नहीं, यह मालूम नहीं है ।

The number of cigarettes which are being smoked in the world is coming down. From a consumption of 137 billion cigarettes in the world in 1982, it has now come down to 100 billion cigarettes. So the number of cigarettes is coming down. But about the number of people, I do not know.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आपको बीड़ी का ज्ञान नहीं होगा, बीड़ी का बढ़ गया ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I think that figure includes bidi smokers. cigarette smokers and cigar smokers. (*Interruptions*) So, Sir, if you look at the figures—if the hon. Member will be patient enough to listen to the figures—the world production in 1982 was 6,990 million kilos. In 1983 it came down to 5,980 million kilos. In 1984 it was 6,050 million kilos. So the production of tobacco in the world is slowly coming down. In our own country also, it has come down. I will not go into all those figures. Now the reason as to why it is coming down is very simple. If we look at the export figures, even the export figures in world trade are coming down. I am not going to quote all the figures now; it will take a long time. But the fact is that it is coming down. Now the reason why it is coming down is because of the intensive anti-smoking campaign that is going on in the world; I must tell you that. An hon. Member asked why there should be a statutory warning that smoking is injurious to health and said it should be removed. Well, it is for the Health Ministry to decide whether it should be removed or not. I am not the authority...

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA (West Bengal): It is now universally accepted that it is a source of cancer and heart disease.

SHRI P. BABUL REDDY: What I said was not to remove the warning completely.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I am coming to that. Now, if we look at the world, if we see the United States of America, which has been one of the largest consumers of cigarettes in the world, they have now imposed a total ban in some of the areas of the United States of America. You can't smoke in certain areas.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: That has increased drug addiction—opium and other things.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I do not know I am dealing with tobacco and I have to justify why we have to regulate it.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : अमरीका में महिलाएं और बच्चे भी पीने लगे थे ।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: May I know, hon. Member, whether you smoke or not. You are so much concerned about cigarettes; I would like to know whether you smoke yourself or not.

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Ask him if he chews tobacco.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, in the United Kingdom, our latest report is that they have decided to impose a ban on smoking in the underground trains for the next 12 months. It is on a trial basis. Now the British insurance companies have also decided not to allow the insurance policy to be applied—I do not know how you call it—to the smokers because they do not insure smokers. Even if they always do it for a lesser amount of money and not for a higher amount of money. This is only to give an example of how the anti-smoking campaign in the world is going on. Therefore, the offtake of tobacco and cigarettes in the world is coming down. And that is the reason why we have also decided that we should now go in for regulation of the production of tobacco in our country because we cannot encourage farmers to grow more and then fail to give them remunerative prices. And if there is no world demand and if there is no demand within the country, if there are no buyers there is no point in telling our growers to grow more tobacco. And this is the reason why we have been regulating the production of tobacco. In 1982 the area under cultivation of tobacco was about 1.9 lakh hectares in all the three States. In 1983 we brought it down to 1.3 lakh hectares. In 1984 we brought it further down to one lakh hectares, and this year we propose to bring it down to 90,000 hectares only. And we had a lot of problems. Some honourable Members have remined us how the farmers had to face a lot of problems in 1978, 1979 and 1983 when there were no buyers and the farmers were in total distress. The Government of India had to take a deliberate decision to ask the State Trading Corporation to enter the market. In 1978 the State Trading Corporation of India purchased 14.131 kgs. and in 1979 it was 5.660 kgs. and the expenditure incurred by the Government at that time was Rs. 13 crores. In 1983 to whcih some honourable Members made a reference the Government of India had again to intervene and had to direct the State Trading Corporation of India to go and purchase tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and we had to purchase to the tune of 18,000 kgs. and the expenditure incurred at that time was about Rs. 21 crores. Shri Vithalbhai has made a point that at that time the Government of India did not purchase anything from Gujarat and that inspite of the orders of the Minister, the officers concerned did not carry out the Minister's orders. This is not so. Actually the State Trading Corporation had to enter the market so suddenly without having any infrastructure, without having enough number of people, that it was very difficult for the State Trading Corporation of India to operate in all the States simultaneously. I myself had to go down and camp at Guntur to supervise the things.. Even my services were needed by the State Trading Corporation of India. So, it was not that the State Trading Corporation of India did not want to obey the orders of the Minister. Practically it was a very difficult proposition for them. And ultimately the Gujarat farmers were asked to come to Andhra Pradesh and they did bring their tobacco to Andhra and sold their tobacco and the State Trading Corporation did buy from Gujarat. I thought the only dispute was about the price. and I do not know whether the problem has been solved or not. The only complaint that I got was that the Gujarat farmers did not get the same price as the Andhra Pradesh farmers got. That was the only complaint that I received. Anyway, this is the position and that is why we have to regulate it. The main point which has been raised in this debate was about giving remunerative prices to the growers. It has been our policy, our endeavour, to see that the farmers do get remunerative prices. An honourable Member made a suggestion that we should also fix the minimum support price. The minimum support price is there. If the House remem-

bers last year the Government of India had introduced auction both in Karnataka and in Andhra Pradesh where, I must say, the farmers in both the States had got remunerative prices. Now, according to the auction system, we do not allow the lowest level of bidding, the first bidding, to be below the minimum price. The first bidding in the auction should be 50 paise more than the minimum support price fixed by the Government. Therefore, in the auction system the question of not getting a remunerative price does not arise because the first bidding has to be 50 paise more than the minimum support price. In fact, according to the information that I have, in Karnataka the highest price a farmer got was Rs. 25 per kg. That is the highest price. The average, of course, is lower. It comes altogether to Rs. 13 against, I suppose the minimum price of Rs. 9. The highest price they got was Rs. 25 and that was in Karnataka. Asd, in Andhra Pradesh the highest price was Rs. 21 per kg. which the farmare got against the minimum price fixed at Rs. 8.95. Therefore under this auction system. I think the farmers of all those States did get a remunerative price. The most important thing is this: Earlier, the farmers used to get the price for their tobacco, I think, after one year or two years or three years. Some honourable Members complained that the middlemen and the traders are exploiting them and I knew that the farmers were not getting their prices for one year or two years or three years. Now, under the auction system, we have made it compulsory in Karnataka that the farmers should be paid on the spot within ten days of the auction. So, last year, the farmers got their payment within ten days in Karnataka and, as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned fifty per cent of their payment was made within ten days and the remaining fifty per cent was made within the next 45 days.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: You are paying in cash or through cheques?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: The payment is made by cheques on the spot. In fact, when I met the farmers after the introduction of the auction system, they told me...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: In most cases they were not getting at all.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Yes, they were not getting. But now they are being paid on the spot and the farmers told me when I met them after the introduction of the auction system: "We do not bother about how much we are getting. But the fact that we are getting within ten days is itself enough for us. It is better to get less money within ten days rather than getting a lot of money after five years." This is what the farmers have told me. And, Sir, I may tell the House that the farmers are very happy over this. In this, Sir, we have had to incur about Rs. 8 crores by way of Government expenditure on the auction system. So, Sir, we are trying our best to see that whatever is possible is done for the farmers.

Sir, some of the individual points I think I have already dealt with. I have already mentioned about the exports. I have said that the exports are coming down. In 1982-83, our exports were of the order of Rs. 192 crores; the figure came down to Rs. 161 crores in 1983-84; and, in 1934-85, it further came down to Rs. 139 crores. So, we have to be very careful about this and that is why we have come up with this Bill so that we can regulate all aspects.

Now, there is one point which I have to deal with.

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : आंध्र में जो टोबेको स्कैंडल की सी०बी०आई० ने जांच की 27 लाख रुपया उसमें गायब पाया गया; उसका क्या हुआ ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: That scandal which you are talking about appeared in the newspapers and it relates to that particular purchase which I have mentioned, that is, in 1978-79, when the State Trading Corporation entered the market and in 1983 when the STC entered the market again when the allegation about some corruption was also there and there were some problems here and there and,

[Shri P. A. Sangma]

therefore, the whole matter is being looked into and that inquiry is going on. So, that relates to the purchases made by the STC in 1978-79 and in 1983.

Now, with regard to growers' representation, while it is not more than six, it has been asked as to why it should not be not less than this.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: What about the workers' representation?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I will come to the question of workers later.

Now, Sir, the Board has got 12 official members and this figure includes three Members of Parliament. Mr. Dhabe asked why there should be a Member of Parliament on this Board. I am hearing for the first time the question as to why Members of Parliament should be on the Board. I will deal with it separately. But, as it stands now, there are three Members of Parliament, then three officers representing Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat and then there are representatives of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Agriculture and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. So, that makes the total of 12 members. Out of the remaining eight members who are non-officials, there are four growers and four exporters and traders. Under this Bill, from 8 non-officials we are increasing to 10 non-officials, and out of 10 we are giving 6 to the growers and 4 to traders, exporters and manufacturers. So it is more than 50 per cent.

SHRI P BABUL REDDY: Six may be one.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Not less than six, may be 10 *(Interruptions)* It is the spirit and the intention of the Government which is more important, and out of 10, I can assure the House, we are going to give six as representation to growers, it means more than 50 per cent. And I think it is quite adequate. I must say that the three Members of Parliament who will be represented on the Board will also represent the growers. Therefore, the ultimate number for the growers will certainly be more.

Sir, individual points which have been made I shall certainly take note of, and wherever necessary, I will be giving individual answers to them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Now, we shall take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was proposed.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : एक जरूरी चीज छूट गई इसलिए मुझे बोलना पड़ रहा है। भारतीय संस्कृति की एक सामूहिक प्रतीक जो गांव में अब मरती-मरती जा रही है वह हुक्का या गड़गड़ा। आप श्रीनगर से असम तक चले जाइये गांव में अभी भी हुक्का पीने की एक परम्परा है। हुक्का उनका जो था वह शायद मैं समझता हूं, कैंसर की जो शिकायत आ गई है वह पानी से छन कर जो धूंआ भाप आता था उससे कैंसर की शिकायत नहीं रहती थी। सरकार पुराने ट्रेडीशन्स की रक्षा करती है और दुनिया भी पुराने ट्रेडीशन्स की रक्षा कर सकती है। हम देख रहे हैं कि अपने यहां से यह चीज समाप्त होती जा रही है इसलिए कि हम वैस्टर्नाइज

होते जा रहे हैं। किसी और चीज में हम आगे बढ़ या नहीं लेकिन सिगरेट में जरूर आगे बढ़े हैं। मैं सरकार से एक बात जानना चाहता हूं कि पुरातन संस्कृति में हुक्के के फार्म में तम्बाकू का जो यूज होता था वह शायद ज्यादा लाभदायक था बनिस्बत सिगरेट के। इसकी सुरक्षा के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं? इसको आप मन्टेन करना चाहते हैं या नहीं? एक बात और मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं...

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण (दिल्ली): हुक्का रक्षा समिति का गठन किया जाना चाहिए। (**व्यवधान**)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव: हिन्दू पुरातन संस्कृति को हम छोड़ते जा रहे हैं। हम वैस्टर्न के रंग में रगते जा रहे हैं। यह अजीब सा लगता है। इसका कारण यह है कि आज हम देश में, विदेश में अपनी पहचान समाप्त कर चुके हैं। अभी दूसरे भी हमारे भाई कह रहे थे कि जब हम बाहर जाते है तो लोग हम को पाकिस्तानी समझते हैं। क्यों न समझे? पाकिस्तान की अपनी पहचान है लेकिन भारत की कौन सी अपनी पहचान है? भाषा अंग्रेजी, भूषा अंग्रेजी और संस्कृति अंग्रेजी तो हमारी पहचान कैसे हो सकती है। जब हम हुक्के की बात करते हैं तो लगता है कि जो हमारी पुरातन संस्कृति है, जो गांव की जनता है, मां-बहनें हैं, वे आज भी इसको यूज करती हैं। जब गांव मे जाते हैं तो उनको सही कहते हैं और यहां आकर मजाक किया जाता है और एक समिति बनाने की बात कहते हैं। मुझे इस पर जरूर आश्चर्य है कि हमारे लोगों के अपने चरित्र में इस प्रकार की हीनता क्यों है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आपने किसान की बात कही। मैं इससे जरूर डिफर करता हूं। यह किसान की कैश क्राप है। कैश क्राप वह जितना उपजा सकता है उसका लाभ उसको मिलना चाहिए। आज गेहूं, चावल किसान का कोई लेने वाला नहीं है। इसमें किसान को घाटा होता है। हर किसान को चाहिए कि वह तम्बाकू बोये। इसलिए आपको इस क्राप के उपयोग की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। दुनिया में इसका मार्केट है और अगर वह कम हो रहा है तो हिन्दुस्तान में तो इसका मार्केट है ही। सिगरेट के लिए बढ़िया किस्म का तम्बाकू चाहिए। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में जो तम्बाकू पैदा होता है उसका यहां पर इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान ने सब पाबन्दियों के बावजूद लोग हुक्का पीएंगे, बीड़ी का इस्तेमाल करेंगे। आपने किसानों के बारे में जो केलकुलेशन यहां पर प्रजेन्ट किया है वह मिसगिविंग है। अगर एक्सपोर्ट नहीं कर सकते हैं तो यह दूसरी बात है, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के किसान को यह बात मत कहिए कि वह तम्बाकू न पैदा करे क्योंकि गेहूं का दाम आप उसको नहीं दे पा रहे हैं और चावल का दाम भी नहीं दे रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति मे किसान को तम्बाकू पैदा करने से मत रोकिए। तम्बाकू एक कैश क्राप है। इससे किसानों को पैसा मिलता है। आप इसकी पैदावार बढ़ाइये जिससे किसानों को लाभ पहुंच सके। इसमें किसान और सरकार, दोनों का लाभ है।

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण: आप तम्बाकू खाते हैं, हुक्का पीते नहीं है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव: न मैं तम्बाकू खाता हूं और न ही हुक्का पीता हूं।

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, there are various types of tobacco. We are concerned only with virginia tobacco. Virginia tobacco is the only tobacco which comes under the jurisdiction of the Commerce Ministry because it is exportable tobacco. The *hooka* tobacco is not under my jurisdiction. It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. Since Virginia tobacco is exportable, we come into the picture.

As far as advice to the grower not to grow is concerned, I will still say that we will advise the grower not to grow more than what is necessary or more than what can be sold. We do not want the farmers to face distress.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.